

In the claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in the International application PCT/EP2003/010691.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claims

1 (Original). A polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

2 (Original). The polynucleotide of claim 1 which is DNA, genomic DNA or RNA.

3 (Currently amended). A vector ~~containing the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2~~ comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the

- deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

4 (Original). The vector of claim 3 in which the polynucleotide is operatively linked to expression control sequences allowing expression in prokaryotic and/or eukaryotic host cells.

5 (Currently amended). A host cell genetically engineered ~~with the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2 or the vector of claim 3 or 4~~ to comprise a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;

- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

6 (Currently amended). A transgenic non-human animal ~~containing a polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2, a vector of claim 3 or 4 and/or a host cell of claim 5~~ comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

7 (Currently amended). A process for producing a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16,

18, 20, 22, and 24;

- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;
- wherein said process comprises the polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2 comprising:
culturing the host cell of claim 5 a host cell comprising said polynucleotide and
recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

8 (Cancelled).

- 9 (Currently amended). A polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a ~~polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2~~ a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in

any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and

(e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide; or that is obtainable by the process of claim 7 culturing a host cell comprising said polynucleotide and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

10 (Currently amended). An antibody that specifically binding binds to the polypeptide of claim 9 a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide; or that is obtainable by culturing a host cell comprising said polynucleotide and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

11 (Currently amended). A nucleic acid molecule which specifically hybridizes to a polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2 a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

12 (Currently amended). An antagonist/inhibitor against a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under

stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;
or that is obtainable by culturing a host cell comprising said polynucleotide and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide;
~~wherein said antagonist/inhibitor the polypeptide of claim 8 which~~ is an antibody, the extracellular domain of [the] said polypeptide of claim 8 or a fragment thereof, or an inhibiting RNA.

13 (Currently amended). The antagonist/inhibitor of claim 12, wherein said inhibiting RNA is ~~an antisense construct hybridizing to a polynucleotide of claim 1 or 2, RNAi, siRNA,~~ [or] a ribozyme, or an antisense construct hybridizing to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
 or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide.

14 (Currently amended). A process for isolating a compound that binds to a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the

deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;

- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

~~comprising:~~ wherein said process comprises:

- (1) contacting said polypeptide, or a host cell genetically engineered with said polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide, with a compound;
- (2) detecting the presence of the compound which binds to said polypeptide; and
- (3) determining whether the compound binds said polypeptide.

15 (Currently amended). A process for isolating an antagonist of the bitter taste receptor activity of the polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO to the at s 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter taste receptor activity;

- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity;

~~comprising~~ wherein said process comprises:

- (1) contacting said polypeptide₁ or a host cell genetically engineered with said polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide₁ with a potential antagonist;
- (2) determining whether the potential antagonist[[s]] antagonizes the bitter taste receptor activity of said polypeptide.

16 (Original). The process of claim 15 further comprising the contacting of the polypeptide with an agonist of the respective bitter taste receptor activity.

17 (Original). The process of claim 16 in which said contacting with an agonist is carried out prior, concomitantly or after step (1) of claim 15.

18 (Currently amended). The process of claim 16 ~~or 17~~ in which said polypeptide and said agonist are selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of acetylthiourea, N,N-dimethylthioformamide, N,N'-diphenylthiourea, N-ethylthiourea, 2-imidazolidinethione, 4(6)-methyl-2-thiouracil, N-methylthiourea, phenylthiocarbamid, 6-phenyl-2-thiouracil, 6-propyl-2-thiouracil, tetramethylthiourea, thioacetamide, thioacetanilide, 2-thiobarbituric acid, and 2-thiouracil and functional derivatives thereof;
- (b) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of saccharin and acesulfame K and functional derivatives thereof;
- (c) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 11 and SEQ ID NO: 12 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of saccharin and acesulfame K and functional derivatives thereof;

- (d) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 13 and SEQ ID NO: 14 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of absinthine and functional derivatives thereof;
- (e) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 16 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of absinthine and functional derivatives thereof;
- (f) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 19 and SEQ ID NO: 20 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of absinthine and functional derivatives thereof;
- (g) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 37 and SEQ ID NO: 38 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of strychnine, brucine, denatonium benzoate, and absinthine and functional derivatives thereof;
- (h) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 41 and SEQ ID NO: 42 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, in particular L-tyrosine, leucine, phenylalanine, histidine, tryptophan and functional derivatives thereof; and
- (i) the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ as determined by SEQ ID NO: 43 and SEQ ID NO: 44 and the agonist selected from the group consisting of naphthyl- β -D-glucoside, phenyl- β -D-glucoside, salicin, helicin, arbutin, 2-nitrophenyl- β -D-glucoside, 4-nitrophenyl- β -D-glucoside, methyl- β -D-glucoside, esculin, 4-nitrophenyl- β -D-thioglucoside, 4-nitrophenyl- β -D-mannoside, and amygdalin and functional derivatives thereof.

19 (Currently amended). A process selected from the group consisting of:

A. a [A] process for the production of a food or any precursor material or additive employed in the production of foodstuffs comprising the steps of either the processes of any of claims 14 to 18

(i) isolating a compound that binds to a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;

(b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7,

9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;

- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

wherein said isolating step further comprises:

- (1) contacting said polypeptide, or a host cell genetically engineered with said polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide, with a compound;
- (2) detecting the presence of the compound which binds to said polypeptide; and
- (3) determining whether the compound binds said polypeptide;

or

- (ii) isolating an antagonist of the bitter taste receptor activity of the polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO to the at s 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter taste receptor activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under

stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity;

wherein said isolating step further comprises:

(1) contacting said polypeptide, or a host cell genetically engineered with said polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide, with a potential antagonist; and

(2) determining whether the potential antagonist antagonizes the bitter taste receptor activity of said polypeptide;

and wherein the process further comprises the subsequent step of admixing the identified compound or antagonist with foodstuffs or any precursor material or additive employed in the production of foodstuffs; and

B. a process for the production of a nutraceutical or pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of either

(i) isolating a compound that binds to a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;

(b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;

(c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;

(d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and

(e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

wherein said isolating step further comprises:

(1) contacting said polypeptide, or a host cell genetically engineered with said

- polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide, with a compound;
- (2) detecting the presence of the compound which binds to said polypeptide; and
- (3) determining whether the compound binds said polypeptide;

or

- (ii) isolating an antagonist of the bitter taste receptor activity of the polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 and 50;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter taste receptor activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter taste receptor activity;

wherein said isolating step further comprises:

- (1) contacting said polypeptide, or a host cell genetically engineered with said polynucleotide or with a vector containing said polynucleotide, with a potential antagonist; and
- (2) determining whether the potential antagonist antagonizes the bitter taste receptor activity of said polypeptide;
and wherein the process further comprises the subsequent step of formulating the compound or antagonist with an active agent in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

21 (Currently amended). A composition selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a [A] ~~feed-stuff~~ foodstuff, including human and animal ~~feed-stuff~~ foodstuff, any precursor material or additive employed in the production of foodstuff comprising an antagonist/inhibitor against a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
 - (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;

or that is obtainable by the process of claim 7;

wherein said antagonist/inhibitor is an antibody, the extracellular domain of the polypeptide or a fragment thereof, or an inhibiting RNA ~~an antagonist/inhibitor of claim 12 or 13~~ and
- (ii) a nutraceutical or pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist/inhibitor against a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
 - (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the

polypeptide;

- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
 - (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
 - (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;
- or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;
- or that is obtainable by the process of claim 7;

wherein said antagonist/inhibitor is an antibody, the extracellular domain of the polypeptide or a fragment thereof, or an inhibiting RNA and an active agent and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22 (Cancelled).

23 (Cancelled).

24 (New). A method for treating an abnormally increased or decreased sensitivity towards a bitter substance, wherein said method comprises administering, to an individual in need of such treatment, one or more of the following:

A. A polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide,

and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;

- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;

B. An antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 9; and

C. An antagonist/inhibitor against a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24;
- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide; or that is obtainable by a process for producing a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) polynucleotides encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16,

18, 20, 22, and 24;

- (b) polynucleotides having the coding sequence, as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 encoding at least the mature form of the polypeptide;
- (c) polynucleotides encoding a fragment or derivative of a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (b), wherein in said derivative one or more amino acid residues are conservatively substituted compared to said polypeptide, and said fragment or derivative has bitter substance binding activity;
- (d) polynucleotides which are at least 50% identical to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (c) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity; and
- (e) polynucleotides the complementary strand of which hybridizes, preferably under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide as defined in any one of (a) to (d) and which code for a polypeptide having bitter substance binding activity;

or the complementary strand of such a polynucleotide;

wherein said process comprises culturing a host cell comprising said polynucleotide and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide;

wherein said antagonist/inhibitor is an antibody, the extracellular domain of the polypeptide or a fragment thereof, or an inhibiting RNA.